

GENDER EQUALITY

Study Guide - IMPACT 2



Impact Summit 2019 - Prague



Topics of Impact 2 Committee

- Eliminate violence against children: combating child marriages, female genital mutilation, and trafficking of persons
- Proposal frameworks to provide compensation, remuneration, and social security and services for unpaid care, domestic work and shared responsibility households

5th Sustainable Development Goal:

5th Sustainable Development Goal has been selected as the Topic of 2019 Summit held in Prague (Gender Equality) Every single continent, Every single nation, Every single industry, Every single individual suffer from being treated differently than others, especially when considering this issue from a gender view. In recent years Gender Equality has made a huge leap forward, however, the question is, are we at the level where we would like to be? Simply NO

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a vital mean of a peaceful and sustainable society. According to research which has been made by the United Nations, at the current time, 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have been experiencing physical or sexual violence by a trustful partner within a 12-month period. At the moment almost 50 countries have no laws which would protect women and young girls from constantly occurring abuse and in many countries when women report that she has been raped, she is the one that is considered to blame. Why? Because there is no law or no authority to protect her from harm. When raped, women are rather banished from their society than offered help. This is the reason why we, future generation must act.

Topic 1: Eliminate violence against children: combating child marriages, female genital mutilation, and trafficking of persons

Key Terms:

Child Marriage - a marriage of a girl or boy before the age of 18 and refers to both formal marriages and informal unions in which children under the age of 18 live with a partner as if married

Genital Mutilation

Forced marriage - one or more of the parties is married without his or her consent or against his or her will

Arranged marriage – a marriage planned and agreed by the families or guardians of the couple concerned

Domestic violence - violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner

Bullying - use superior strength or influence to intimidate (someone), typically to force them to do something

School violence - physical violence, including student-on-student fighting and corporal punishment; psychological violence, including verbal abuse; sexual violence, including rape and sexual harassment; many forms of bullying, including cyberbullying; and carrying weapons in school

Sexual exploitation - sexual abuse of children and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life, and/or money

Human trafficking - the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation

Corporal punishment - physical punishment, such as caning or flogging

Introduction

Violence against children is defined as any kind of violence against a person under the age of 18. There is no difference between abuse carried out by parents or other caregivers (teachers), peers, romantic partners, or strangers. According to estimation

conducted by the World Health Organization, over 1 billion children between the age of 2 to 17, have previously experienced sexual, physical or emotional violence. Such harassments happen worldwide and could have life-long consequences on the mental state of an individual¹. Violence can affect a child's psychological, physical and mental health to a large extent especially when it is carried out by someone with whom the victim is in a family relationship.

Forms of violence

Violence has many forms and many people define it in different ways. Unfortunately, violence against children occurs in places, which are supposed to be safe such as but not limited to schools and homes. In many parts of Europe, some forms of child abuse are being ignored or even approved as it is being carried out in the family setting. This form of abuse is also called in some countries corporal punishments. It is confirmed by Article 19 from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that violence against children is a violation of human rights. The Council of Europe is continuously working on diminishing all forms of violence against children. In cooperation and support of its 47 member States, they are trying to pursue the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Corporal punishment is defined as any punishment involving physical force used to intentionally cause any degree of pain or discomfort. It is one of the most widespread violence against children. The Council of Europe is working on a legal prohibition of corporal punishment on children as they believe that it has long-term psychological consequences. The Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against *Sexual Exploitation and Sexual abuse* states that all kinds of sexual abuse against children should be criminalized and that states should adopt specific legislation and take other types of measures to prevent sexual violence.

Child Trafficking violates children's rights to education and health care. In Europe, child trafficking is conducted for a purpose of further sexual exploitation or forced labor. The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings is working

on preventing trafficking of children in less economically and more economically developed countries, protection of victims, prosecution of perpetrators, and promotion of coordination of national actions and international co-operation. Trafficking on women and girls is also a part of the gender-based violence which is largely debated by 5th Sustainable Development Goal: Gender Equality. Its purpose is sexual and economic exploitation, especially prostitution and pornography, forced labor, work in commercial agriculture and domestic work, arranged marriages as a number of them is going to be sold as brides. It affects all regions of the world. Even though both genders may be victims of the human trafficking, women, and girls are the main target due to the disproportional effects of poverty and discrimination, and other factors that diminish their access to employment and educational opportunities⁸.

Violence in public institutions

Violence in schools could be seen in both physical and psychological forms and it is considered to be the most occurring violence against children. The biggest consequences of this form of violence are fear and insecurity which have a negative effect on one's perception of education. It also violates children's right to learn in a safe and unthreatening environment.

The Council of Europe is working on the elimination of violence in schools through pursuing education program for children concerning human rights and democratic citizenship. The Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education supports the fight against all forms of discrimination and violence, especially bullying and harassment. The Charter has been adopted by all member states of the Council of Europe.

Bullying is defined as repeated unwanted and aggressive behavior which involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Kids who are victims of bullying may have serious psychological issues. Bullying involves physical and sexual violence, threats, social exclusion and many other forms of psychological violence. The Council of Europe

Strategy on the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 is actively working on reducing violence in schools by educating children about the consequences of bullying and their impact on others. In many countries of the world, especially less economically developed ones. UNICEF is implementing programs and workshops at schools to educate children about their rights. They are also taught about the consequences of unreported bullying and abusive behavior and they are encouraged to defend themselves. The problem of these programs is that they are implemented only at limited number of schools in limited number of countries. In order to eliminate violence against children, it is necessity to come up with new programs that will be effective and widespread in all cultures and communities.

Child marriages

Child marriage is defined as any form of formal or informal union where one or both of the partners are under 18 years of age⁴. Forced and Child Marriage is a constantly debated issue that targets women and girls and traps them in relationships that deprives them of basic human rights. According to the **Article One of the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration** “*No marriage shall be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person after due publicity and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage and of witnesses, as prescribed by law*”. In the Article 2 of Convention is stated: “*States Parties to the present Convention shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage. No marriage shall be legally entered into by any person under this age, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious reasons, in the interest of the intending spouses.*” There is a big difference between forced and arranged marriages. Forced marriages are defined as marriages in which one or both partners cannot give free or valid consent to the marriage. Forced marriage involves emotional pressure from the side of the family (both persuading the victim to go into marriage due to the family’s social standing and reputation or isolation of the victim or refusing to speak to them) or community members, abduction and imprisonment. Arranged marriage is defined by the fact that the marriage is mostly arranged by the family and the victim cannot refuse to

choose whether to marry or not. In many communities, such type of marriage is supported by the culture and traditions⁵.

Spread of female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation involves all procedures of partial or complete removal of the external female genital or any other type of injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons⁶. The practice can be mostly found in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. It is being conducted due to cultural and traditional backgrounds. Historically, the practice stands from the idea of gender inequality and attempts to gaining control over women's sexuality. The question of mutilation is still being raised as the purpose of the mutilation hides behind the fear of social exclusion of those who were not cut. It carries out multiple severe health consequences such as recurrent infections, difficulty urinating and passing menstrual flow, chronic pain, inability to get pregnant, complications during childbirth, fatal bleeding⁷.

Possible solutions to be discussed by delegates

Possible solutions to how to protect vulnerable children and youth could be done through the implementation of laws, policies, and programs protecting children, which should change attitudes and social norms that encourage violence against children. Help should be provided to victims of violence to help them seek appropriate support when violence does occur or to cope with risks of violence occurring. Establishment of community-based children's programs to promote positive parenting. Human trafficking could be prevented by the establishment of international partnerships and passing laws which would bring perpetrators to justice¹³.

Conclusion

Children are facing discrimination at home, schools and public places worldwide. Although protection of rights of children should be considered the priority, a great part of it goes unrecognized as it takes part in private or is considered a part of the culture of less developed societies. Children even in Europe are facing violation of human rights in form of bullying from the side of teachers or classmates, which undermines their rights to learn in a safe, unthreatening environment. Child marriages and Female genital mutilations are considered cultural aspect of some of the less developed societies, thus stand from the idea of pride, which makes it harder to prevent such violations of children's rights from happening. Elimination of violence against children could be achieved through the implementation of laws, policies, and programs protecting children, which should change attitudes and social norms that encourage violence against children. Help should be provided to victims of violence to help them seek appropriate support when violence does occur or to cope with risks of violence occurring.

Questions to be discussed by delegates:

1. How to ensure access to proper psychological treatment to victims of human trafficking?
2. What measures should be taken to ensure a decrease in violence against children when it comes to the cultural aspects of their lives?
3. How to ensure proper inclusion in the society of those who went through human trafficking or severe domestic abuse?
4. Who should become the legal representative of the children engaged in forced or child marriage after them being rescued?
5. Will the children who have previously experienced violence at school be able to stay in the facility where they were previously bullied?

Topic 2: Proposal frameworks to provide compensation, remuneration, and social security and services for unpaid care, domestic work and shared responsibility households

Key Terms:

Remuneration - money paid for work or a service

Double burden - the workload of people who work to earn money, but who are also responsible for significant amounts of unpaid domestic labor

Introduction

Nowadays domestic work is being undervalued, underpaid, unprotected, and poorly regulated. The International Labor Office (ILO) states that the problem lies behind the similarities between paid domestic work and unpaid care work. Domestic workers are usually females and child laborers of disadvantaged or ethnic minorities. They are more vulnerable to discrimination due to their social background. People tend to undervalue such types of work due to the economic and social aspects⁹. It involves the production of goods for self-consumption such as collection of water and firewood, provision of services such as cooking, cleaning, and the beneficial activities for the community, the environment, and pupils other than close relatives. A lot of people take this type of work as granted and do not value it. According to the estimation conducted by the UN Women, women are responsible for approximately 75 percent of all unpaid care and domestic work. On average female workers spend up to three hours more a day doing housework than men. Women also spend approximately ten times more time taking care of their relatives than men do¹⁰.

The disproportionate number of work hours done by women has a negative impact on their economic engagement in the field of employment, participation in education and overall quality of life¹¹. Although women's volunteer work could be perceived as a form of

social service and is essential to a society's well-being, it is not generally recognized as work¹².

Societal incapability to recognize the economic value of unpaid care work cause overall ignore from the side of public and social policy initiatives. It is almost impossible to fully evaluate the value of unpaid care work due to its private nature. Such data are crucial to fully understand its economic importance and its beneficial contribution to the stability of societies. *“The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action referred to the unequal distribution of unpaid care work between men and women as a barrier to gender equality”*¹³. The declaration required states to increase the data collection of unpaid care work, the establishment of policies that would provide rights to those, who perform unpaid care work. The International Labor Organization (ILO) established ILO Convention No. 156, which tackles the issue of workers with family responsibilities, Convention No. 182 which tackles maternity protection, and Convention No. 189 which concerns decent work for domestic workers¹³.

Types of unpaid domestic labor

Unpaid domestic labor could be divided into two types: Unpaid care work and Reproductive labor. Unpaid care work is defined as everyday activities such as cooking, cleaning, washing, shopping for own household and care for children, elderly, sick and disabled. Although it is primarily seen as a care for family members, activities for own good are also considered a part of unpaid care work.

In comparison to that, reproductive labor includes raising and taking care of children and other family members, thus is rather biological. Childbearing could be done only by the individuals possessing female reproductive organs, thus making it biologically female job. Child-rearing could be considered as both reproductive and care labor, so could be performed by any family member. In other words, the main difference between unpaid domestic labor and reproductive labor is that reproductive labor could mainly be performed by women due to the biological predisposition.

Effects of unpaid domestic labor in women's mental health

Imbalance in the paid and unpaid work hours has tremendous effects on women's health both mental and physical. There is a positive correlation between the increased level of stress and higher levels of symptoms related to depression and anxiety. By increasing their work time, they do not achieve the corresponding decrease in the time of unpaid work, nor have men increased their share of unpaid work at the same rate that women have increased their paid work. According to the Human Development Report of 2015, in 63 states 31 percent of women time is being spent by doing unpaid work, in comparison to only 10 percent of men time. The amount of unpaid work done by women is even higher in areas with a lack of easy access to food and water.

The disproportional division of household unpaid work between genders has a negative impact on navigation of women's life outside their homes. By engaging in the sector of paid labor, the overall amount of work doubles as there is no corresponding reduction of unpaid care work. As they are spending less time in the workforce, they have a lower income than men do. Traditional beliefs of women bringing back into household less money are discouraging, thus women are demotivated to invest more time and effort into education and skills. The double burden stands from the idea of women having to work a full day in the workforce and then complete a full day of unpaid domestic work after coming back home. It negatively affects women's chances to get promoted as they are spending less time in the workforce, thus men are more likely to be promoted over women.

According to statistics, children are forced to contribute to the unpaid domestic work for a household especially in the poorer areas of the world. As it is traditionally seen as a

women's work, the burden falls mainly on young girls, which results in them dropping out of school in order to be able to assist with the unpaid work within their households.

Economic side of the issue

Economists are divided when it comes to the question of whether is unpaid domestic work rather economic production or consumption. Some economists such as Hairway believes that it should be considered as economic production as it contributes to the economy by producing important goods and services, which allows other members of the family to enter the workforce and contribute to the overall economy via paid jobs. Moreover, the economic value is not included in the gross domestic product (GDP) or national income accounting indicators. In unpaid work were incorporated while estimating the GDP percentage, unpaid care work would raise it by approximately 26 percent in 2010.

Unpaid domestic work has a positive effect on the state's budget as it would provide the unpaid domestic work to its citizens if the family members were unable to provide it themselves. It includes child care, care for the elderly, medical care and nutrition. As such work is typically being done by family members, the state does not have to expand its investment into such services. On the other hand, if the state were to cut all its funds supporting unpaid domestic work, the burden would be placed mainly o women, in other words, the decrease in the state's donations to care services would have a negative effect on female participation in the workforce.

Suggested solutions to be discussed by delegates

Possible solutions to decrease disproportion between women and men in the amount of unpaid care work could be achieved by providing services, social protection and basic infrastructures which would promote sharing of domestic and care work between men and women, and the establishment of more paid jobs in the care economy¹².

Conclusion

In the modern world, women are facing double burden than men as they are forced to work a full day in the workforce and after coming home, they have to work almost the same amount of time in the unpaid domestic labor, which causes a higher level of stress, sleep deprivation and even depression. Moreover, women are less likely to be promoted than men as they have to invest less time into the workforce in order to be capable of taking care of the household, which lessens the motivation of women to obtain higher education and skills needed to rise to the top of the workforce. The decrease in disproportion between women and men in the amount of unpaid care work could be achieved by providing services, social protection and basic infrastructures which would promote sharing of domestic and care work between men and women, and the establishment of more paid jobs in the care economy.

Questions to be discussed by delegates:

1. Is it possible to ensure equal division of unpaid domestic work between men and women?
2. Will the women receive higher dotation from the state if divorced?
3. How to find out the exact number of hours spent on unpaid domestic care?
4. Should the wages of men and women be equalized even if women spent fewer hours working in the workforce due to the amount of unpaid domestic care?
5. How to ensure proper access to unpaid domestic care if both partners are forced to spend the inadequate amount of time in the workforce?

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